

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)	
)	
or Suspension of the Educator)	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
)	(BREACH OF CONTRACT)
Certificate of Dennis M. Bassin)	
)	
Certificate # 102283)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on December 7, 2004. On October 27, 2004, the Office of Teacher Education and Certification sent Dennis M. Bassin a notice of his right to a due process hearing regarding the possible suspension of his South Carolina educator certificate by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Mr. Bassin received the notice, as evidenced by the signed postal receipt. Mr. Bassin did not request a hearing during the period specified by the notice letter. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Mr. Bassin's certificate for one year.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Bassin holds a valid certificate, and has over twenty years teaching experience. Mr. Bassin held a contract for the 2004-2005 school year with Darlington County School District (District). On August 23, 2004, Mr. Bassin presented his principal with a letter of resignation. Mr. Bassin stated that his resignation was due to him experiencing severe chest pain due to excessive stress. On August 24, 2004, the District wrote Mr. Bassin requesting him to complete a Resignation/Retirement form to process his resignation request. The District also advised him that his resignation was not in compliance with board policy, and that he would be in breach of his contract. After numerous attempts to contact Mr. Bassin, without success, the District wrote Mr. Bassin on September 2, 2004, requesting documentation from his physician or they would

be forced to proceed with the necessary action before the District Board of Trustees to terminate his contract. On September 24, 2004, the District wrote Mr. Bassin and informed him that because he never responded to the District's requests, the District would seek termination from the District Board of Trustees. October 25, 2004, the District Board of Trustees voted to request that the State Board suspend Mr. Bassin's certificate.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. §§ 59-25-150 and 160 (2004). Breach of contract is deemed to be unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that there is sufficient evidence supporting its conclusion that Mr. Bassin breached his contract with the Darlington County School District, warranting the suspension of Mr. Bassin's certificate # 102283 for a period of one year, from December 7, 2004, through December 8, 2005. Should Mr. Bassin wish to have his certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, he may make a written request for reinstatement to the Office of Teacher Certification.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Mary Jones

Dr. Mary Jones

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

December 7, 2004